

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 9, 2015

The Jasper County Board of Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, Richard E. Maxwell and James A. Walstra. Also present was Deputy Auditor, Donna J. Horner; Highway Engineer/Supervisor, Jack R. Haberlin and the Attorney who represents the Commissioners, Eric Beaver. The meeting was called to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Nancy Bailey, Jasper County Health Nurse.

CLAIMS: Mr. Culp pointed out that not only are we paying for repairs and maintenance out of the Jail Special Cagit Fund, we are also using this fund to pay for food and medical. Mr. Culp continued to express concern that there has been some talk of eventually doing away with this levy once the jail is paid off. I don't think that there is any possible way that we are going to be able to do that with paying for day to day operations out of there. After reviewing the amount of claims, it appears that we're pretty well committed to that fund as long as county general remains tight.

In regards to Check No. 82917 in the amount of \$20,000.00 to the Jasper County Fair Association, Mr. Culp asked if they had to present a claim? Mr. Maxwell replied that we normally just give them the amount approved at budget time; however, they do normally present a list of the projects that they are working on. The decision was made to hold the check until a list is presented. After further discussion, the decision was also made to hold Check No. 82923 in the amount of \$12,083.33 pending further information. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the claims as presented with the exception of Check No. 82917 and Check No. 82923. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM & ALLOWANCE DOCKETS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim & Allowance Dockets for the check dates equal to January 15, 2015 and January 30, 2015. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 6, 2015 and the Minutes of the Continued Meeting held on January 20, 2015. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE PERMITS: There were no buried cable permits.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT / PART-TIME REQUEST: Nancy Bailey, Health Nurse, stated that two of her part-time nurses have decided to retire. One of the part-time positions was funded through the Local Health Maintenance Fund which is a grant through the State. Mr. Culp asked if Ms. Bailey wants to hire one person or two? Ms. Bailey replied that she would prefer to hire two; however, I always said that I would use the grant money to pay for my nurses. Mr. Culp stated that, as Ms. Bailey has referenced, Amy Todd was hired full-time in 2012. At the time, we agreed with Ms. Bailey that one of her employees would go from three (3) days to two (2) and that the next part-time nurse that retired or resigned would not be replaced. Mr. Culp stated that he would rather keep it at one; however, he does not have a problem with giving them a few more hours. Ms. Bailey expressed concern with the grant requirements. If there are any changes to the State grant funding, the Commissioners requested that Ms. Bailey return and they will readdress the situation. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to allow the replacement of one (1) part-time nurse. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CONTINUING EDUCATION / SURVEYOR: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the various continuing education classes for Vince Urbano, Surveyor. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PARCEL SPLITS / SURVEYOR: Vince Urbano, Surveyor, stated that the topic has been brought up at recent GIS meetings about the hiring of Schneider to do a lot of our GIS work as far as the splitting of parcels. After discussion, the GIS team made the decision to try to move this work back into the county. After running an "experiment" to see what the timeframe would be on Adam Lyons, Surveyor's Office, performing these splits, it was decided that he could complete them in anywhere from 30-45 minutes per split.

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PARCEL SPLITS / SURVEYOR CON'T: In this process, we have actually found several hundred errors that have been committed over the last several years from previous employees that have worked throughout the county that probably, in our opinion as a team, should not have been doing some of these things. Bringing this in is going to take a lot away from some of the field work, surveys and section corner witnessing. It will take Adam 3-4 months randomly throughout the year to get this done. If we could get allotted some more part-time help to fulfill Adam's vacancy out in the field, I think we could probably recoup this and be in the savings in the long run. Mr. Culp explained that with the reduced staff in the Auditor's office, the decision was made to hire out the parcel splits to Schneider based on a per split price. There are some very talented individuals within the Surveyor's office that can handle this. Mr. Culp stated that his thought was that we should move towards this and if we find out that Adam cannot keep up because of other duties within the office then those could still be sent to Schneider to be done because we are still under contract with them. That gives us a year and a half to evaluate even further. Vince has come forward and said that he has a talented person in his office that can do this and Kim (Auditor) appreciates it because it takes a load off of her office. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve Mr. Urbano's recommendation to bring the splits in-house. We will keep review for the next year to make sure that it is not too much of a burden on the department. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ESTIMATE FOR REPAIRS / ANIMAL SHELTER: Kyler Laird, Animal Shelter Board, presented an estimate in the amount of \$978.25 for repairs to the sliding doors on the kennels in the main building. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the estimate as submitted by Schuh Construction. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

VOLUNTEER POLICY / UPDATE: Mr. Laird requested an update on the volunteer policy. Stace Pickering, Consolidated Insurance, stated that it is just a matter of an additional premium. The cost is approximately \$1,000.00 for the first 20 volunteers. A list of the volunteers' names would have to be kept and submitted to the insurance company as they change. Mr. Laird asked if they, as a department, have an option of getting their own insurance or do we need to go through the county? Mr. Pickering replied that you could; however, cost perspective you are probably looking at the same amount. Mr. Culp stated that the volunteer policy was referred to the firm that handles our handbook policies (Kent Irwin) and he advised that workman's comp was not needed for volunteers. Attorney Beaver stated that he would like to know the reasoning for that. My assumption is that we could have some issues if someone is a volunteer. Mr. Laird explained that we may have a class from St. Joe College come out for one day and having them on a roster for an entire year could get expensive; therefore, I'd like to come up with a different way to do that. Mr. Pickering stated that the other option is an accident policy; however, there is a cap on how much they will pay. This is what we do for the reserves and community corrections.

ANIMAL SHELTER / HOURS: Mr. Laird reported that the Board has voted to change the hours so that we are more available to the public. We are currently open to the public Monday – Friday from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Board approved being open to the public from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. A lot of phone calls are received between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The new hours would also help eliminate comp time. Saturday hours would also be scheduled from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. rather than from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the change in hours for the Animal Shelter. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Culp stated that there will need to be a change to the handbook.

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD / RESIGNATION OF ATTORNEY: Rick Kallenbach has resigned as the attorney for the Animal Control Board. The Board has since voted unanimously to eliminate the position of the attorney on the Board. Mr. Walstra made a motion to reduce the Animal Control Board size to eight (8) by eliminating the attorney position for the Board. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PETITION TO VACATE A PORTION OF ROAD IN KANKAKEE TOWNSHIP / NIPSCO: Mr. Culp reported that NIPSCO has agreed to move CR 250 E at their expense. The current road would then be vacated in order to allow NIPSCO to continue with their land expansion. The new road will be entirely on NIPSCO's property. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request from NIPSCO after hearing public testimony at two meetings. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

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DONATION FUND / ANIMAL SHELTER: Kyler Laird, Animal Shelter Board, requested permission to use the Donation Fund to repair the outside gate and to begin a microchipping program. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the expenditure from the Donation Fund. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT / DEED DISCUSSION: Brad Cozza, Manager/Jasper County Airport, was present to give an update on the discussion that took place at the last meeting in terms of the warranty deed preparation as well as the county survey completion. Attorney Beaver stated that he will be speaking with Attorney Comingore in regards to some of the language in the warranty deed. A real estate purchase or transfer contract may be needed to put this all together. There are several issues that would need to go into a contract between the two bodies that would not go into a deed.

Mr. Cozza reported that they just completed their updated 5-year outlook that was submitted to the State in January. Copies were distributed to the Commissioners. In response to a question asked by Mr. Maxwell at last month's meeting regarding the airport's self-sufficiency goal, Mr. Cozza stated that it's his estimate that roughly the equivalent of 19.4% of our 2014 county-assisted budget was generated through hanger rent, our lease agreement and our fuel sales.

FARMGROUND / JASPER COUNTY AIRPORT: Attorney Beaver stated that the Airport would be bound by the terms of the lease the same as the County is currently. When this issue first came up, Attorney Beaver stated that he had mentioned that maybe a stipend could be paid to the tenant to accommodate them for any sort of loss by the tenant. Mr. Cozza replied that he thinks that is something that he could see us working towards to try and balance honoring that agreement while also honoring our grant assurances and our safety regulations and requirements. Attorney Beaver stated that we will need a description of the land after the conveyance of the property.

PANIC BUTTONS / COUNTY BUILDINGS: Bill Batley, IT, stated that he was tasked last month with looking into adding video to the panic button system. Some of the office holders had an issue with this addition; therefore, the decision was made to continue with the panic button system only. Two quotes were received from SecureTech Systems, Inc.

Option One: \$28,250.00

Each facility would have their own panic button main system with the buttons attached.

Option Two: \$11,950.00

One central component here at the courthouse that all of the other facilities communicate through.

Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve Option Two in the amount of \$11,950.00. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

REZONE / BARKLEY TOWNSHIP: A request was made to change the zoning classification of real estate in Barkley Township from the **A1 Conservation Agriculture District** to the **A3 Intense Agriculture District**. Mary Scheurich, Director/Planning & Development, explained that this is an existing confined feeding operation that they have chosen to add on to. With the new UDO, a rezone is required from the A1 to the A3. The Plan Commission has unanimously recommended approval. Ms. Scheurich stated that discussion did take place in regards to zoning a smaller area rather than the entire 99 1/2 acres. After similar discussion followed with the Commissioners, Mr. Maxwell suggested that a smaller area be rezoned by extending the existing west line of the proposed south end of the property to the north to the property line. After review, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2-09-2015A** with the amendment. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Let the record show that Mr. Culp did abstain.

REZONE / KANKAKEE TOWNSHIP (STALBAUM): A request was made to change the zoning classification of real estate in Kankakee Township from the **A1 Conservation Agriculture District** to the **A2 General Agriculture District**. Mary Scheurich, Director/Planning & Development, stated that the applicant, Don Stalbaum, was not present for the hearing; however, there was a room full of concerned citizens. The Plan Commission recommended the proposed ordinance be denied. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the recommendation to deny **Ordinance No. 2-09-2015B**. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

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DEMOLITION OF JASPER COUNTY BUILDING: The following quotes were received for the demolition of the Jasper County Building located at 129 West Harrison Street in Rensselaer.

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| 1) | Jeff DeYoung / DeYoung's Dirt Works, Inc. | \$42,415.00 |
| 2) | Chris Culp / Culp Trucking and Excavating | \$25,250.00 |
| 3) | Chuck Shane Excavating, Inc. | \$19,890.00 |

Mr. Maxwell made the motion to accept the quote as submitted by Chuck Shane Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$19,890.00. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

YEAR-END JAIL REPORT: Sheriff Risner distributed the year-end jail report to the Board of Commissioners and the Auditor's office. The Sheriff reported that there was a decrease in the total number of prisoners booked into the facility. Just over 73,000 meals were served at a cost of \$1.58 per meal. During 2014, the jail did not have any in-custody deaths, escapes, or attempted escapes. The jail did book in 2 people for attempted murder.

MERIT DEPUTY POSITIONS / PERMISSION TO REFILL: Sheriff Risner stated that they had two openings come up in the Merit Deputies position. Both openings are funded and are existing positions. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the replacements. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

At this time, there was a short break.

BRIDGE #123 / AGREEMENT: Jack Haberlin, Highway Engineer/Supervisor, stated that we have received a rough copy of the new Bridge Inspection Book. Bridge No. 123 is in need of the most work. Approval was given at the July 7, 2014 meeting to proceed with this bridge. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the Agreement with Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. to provide professional engineering services in connection with Jasper County Bridge No. 123 carrying County Road 900 West over the Iroquois River. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

GRANT OF EASEMENT / CITY OF RENSSELAER: Jerry Lockridge, City of Rensselaer, explained that the plan is to run water out to the annexed area along I-65. The County owns a portion of the property where the water main will be installed. The City will need to bore under the road and then turn and go west ending at the Holiday Inn Express. Mr. Haberlin asked how far north the water line would be from the edge of the road from the state highway? Mr. Lockridge replied that the water line is going to be approximately 25'-30' north of the edge of the blacktop. Mr. Culp asked if there is any consideration for crop damage. Mr. Lockridge replied that if we go through there when the crops are in, we definitely will cover any crop damage. In response to a question from Mr. Culp, Mr. Lockridge replied that they are hoping to start by the end of summer. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the Grant of Easement with the City of Rensselaer subject to Attorney Beaver's review. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

TOWER SPACE / COUNTY: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the rental of space on the tower located in the county parking lot for a two-year term at \$150.00 per month to Derich Schultz, Midway Electronics. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

MAXIMUS / AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES: Attorney Beaver stated that a clause has been added to the language of the agreement that he is not too happy with. Telephone messages have been left with the contact person; however, they have not returned any of the calls. Attorney Beaver stated that he cannot recommend going forward with the agreement until he has the chance to speak with someone regarding his reservations.

COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION: Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve the Covered Bridge Certification stating that the number of covered bridges in Jasper County is zero (0). Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION / LETTER: Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve a letter to the Indiana Gaming Commission giving permission to the Jasper County Fair Association to use the county owned premises located at 2671 W. Clark St., Rensselaer, for their bingo fund raiser. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

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FALLING ICE SIGNS: Quotes were submitted for “Falling Ice” signs to be placed around the Courthouse. Mr. Haberlin will have Bill Webb, Highway Department, get an estimate on four (4) signs.

ENTRANCE RUGS / CLEANING: Due to the closing of the local cleaners, information will be requested from Superior Cleaners of Watseka, IL to have the carpets in the entryway of the Courthouse cleaned on a monthly basis.

SPRING CONFERENCE / CLERK: Vickie Bozell, Clerk, has requested approval for herself and one deputy to attend the Clerk’s Spring Conference in Lafayette on March 4 and 5. The costs incurred will be registration fees and meals. The county vehicle will be used. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

PREA TRAINING / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: William Wakeland, Director, will be attending PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) training at the Columbus Learning Center on February 18 and 19. The training is free. If the cost of the hotel room and meals are not paid as part of the PREA Grant, they will be paid from Project Income. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PURDUE ROAD SCHOOL: Jack Haberlin, Highway Engineer; Vince Urbano, Surveyor; and Richard Maxwell, Commissioner have requested permission to attend the Purdue Road School on March 10 – 12. Mr. Walstra made the motion to approve. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CHILD SUPPORT TRAINING / PROSECUTOR: James R. Lakin, Deputy Prosecutor, is planning on attending the Child Support Training for Prosecutors conducted by the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council. The training will be beneficial in the continued success of our child support enforcement. The event is being held on Feb. 3rd through Feb. 5th in Indianapolis. Hotel and other expenses will be paid from the IV-D Incentive Fund. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE / TREASURER: Carla Anderson, Treasurer, requested permission at the January 6 meeting to attend the Treasurer’s Annual Conference on August 5, 6, and 7 in Indianapolis. The request was continued until clarification was received on the number of nights of lodging. Ms. Anderson has since stated that she would be requesting three nights of lodging. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

SRI TAX SALE SEMINAR: Carla Anderson, Treasurer; Tammy McEwan, Deputy Treasurer; and Barbara Robinson, Deputy Auditor, would like permission to attend the SRI tax sale seminar on Friday, March 27 in Indianapolis. There is no cost to attend. Mr. Maxwell made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

TIME OFF / VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER: Pat Donnelly, VSO, will be taking time off from February 3 to February 11. In the event someone has something that has to be filed, Mr. Donnelly has arranged for the Porter County VSO to handle any such situation.

QUARTERLY MEETING / VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER: Pat Donnelly, VSO, will be attending the quarterly meeting at the VA clinic in Crown Point on January 13. The meeting will not be over until 3:15 or 3:30; therefore, Mr. Donnelly would like permission to use his personal vehicle and submit a claim for mileage.

Mr. Donnelly will also be speaking to the DeMotte Senior Citizens Group at their weekly luncheon on February 26. The county car will be used. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

HANDICAP PARKING / COURTHOUSE: Mr. Haberlin will proceed with the addition of two more handicap parking spaces on the east side of the Courthouse.

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PROPOSED SIDEWALK / SR 114: Mr. Culp stated that he received a letter from the Mayor of the City of Rensselaer stating that they were approached by a citizen in regards to an asphalt or sidewalk path being installed along SR 114 leading out to the fairgrounds and Community Corrections Center. The Mayor would like to meet with the Commissioners in regards to the possible sharing of the cost.

There being no further business, Mr. Maxwell made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Kendell Culp, President

James A. Walstra, Vice President

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

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